

Today:
November 2, 2014

Scripture Focus: Hebrews 11-12:3

By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God. *(Hebrews 11:8-10, Message)*

Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them. *(Hebrews 11:13-16, Message)*

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls! *(Hebrews 12:1-3, Message)*

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Hebrews chapter 11 has been called the “Hall of Faith.” What have you done in your life as an act of faith? How would someone else fill in this sentence about you: By an act of faith _____ (your name)...
- Read Hebrews chapter 11. What other biblical characters would you like to add to this list?
- Today we remember All Saints Day and those who have died during the past year, as well as naming our own losses and those things that we are grieving. How do you receive comfort and support from those in our faith community when you are grieving?

This Week: **November 3 - 8**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 11/3	Tuesday 11/4	Wednesday 11/5	Thursday 11/6	Friday 11/7	Saturday 11/8
Numbers 29-32	Numbers 33-36	Deuteronomy 1-3	Deuteronomy 4-7	Deuteronomy 8-11	Deuteronomy 12-15

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What catches your attention about this description of the holy convocations to be observed in the seventh month? (see Numbers 29)

Tuesday

What do you find significant about the boundaries of the Promised Land? (Num. 34)

Wednesday

• Why is it important to recount the story from Egypt to the edge of the Promised Land?

Thursday

What strikes you about the commands as well as the appropriate response to the commands? (Deuteronomy 5-6)

Friday

• Why is remembering so important in these chapters? What does remembering do?

Saturday

• What is the significance of canceling debts every seventh year? (Deut. 15)

Taking Scripture to Heart:

In this year, we will spend 6 weeks or more as a congregation on selected passages that we will take to heart. We will have monthly times in worship for reviewing and reciting these passages together. Our first memory text is **Deuteronomy 26:5-10a**, the "Covenant Recital".

Next Sunday: November 9

Theme: Judah and the fall to Babylon

Scripture Focus: 2 Kings 18-19, 22-25; Jeremiah 18-19, 21